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## Freud's Last Session

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TAYLOR UNIVERSITY'S

# *Mitchell Theatre*

PRESENTS



## freud's last session

By Mark St. Germain  
suggested by *The Question of God* by  
Dr. Armand M. Nicholi, Jr.

Originally produced at Barrinton Stage Company, Pittsfield, MA,  
Julianne Boyd, Artistic Director; Richard M. Parison, Jr. Producing Director

Off-Broadway Production produced by  
Carolyn Rossi Copeland, Robert Stillman and Jack Thomas



## JESSICA ROUSSELOW-WINQUIST - DIRECTOR

During the summer of 2010 my husband and I were in New York. As usual we checked the theatre section of the Times to find an interesting play. Both of us enjoy history and biography which drew us to the off-Broadway section and a play entitled Freud's Last Session. We were intrigued and ordered tickets.

When we arrived at the small off-Broadway theatre on the upper west side we were amazed to see people being turned away because the house was sold out. As soon as the play began the audience was mesmerized and remained engaged until the closing curtain. The remarkable thing about the play was there was very little "action"—no chase sequences, no deep conflict between protagonist and antagonist. There were simply two men engaged in intellectual discussion about a variety of subjects including each other's writings, favorite literary work, ancient belief systems, relationships, emotional responses, the problem of pain, and belief in God.

The end of the play was particularly intriguing to me. Neither man succeeded in changing the other's beliefs, but the play ended with both men profoundly changed by the encounter. Lewis remained a committed Christian, and Freud remained a committed atheist. However, they had found a common meeting place as each confronted aspects of himself which had been buried deep within. When the air raid siren sounds and planes roar across the sky they both experience fear, and in the process become vulnerable to each other in a way that neither expected. Ultimately, this shared vulnerability leads to a deep respect for the humanness of the other.

I knew that evening that the next time I had the opportunity to direct a play at Taylor, this would be my choice. Near the beginning of the play Lewis declares that he "questions his faith daily" in the same way one might declare they eat breakfast daily. By the end of the play he tells Freud that his idea of God is constantly changing. Though he senses that the world "is crowded with God", God also appears "incognito" and "His incognito is so hard to penetrate." Living as we do in an intentional community where the presumption of shared values, beliefs, and attitudes permeates every facet of our days it is easy to forget what the author of Hebrews so poignantly stated: "And what is faith? Faith gives substance to our hopes, and makes us certain of realities we do not see."

*~Jessica Rousselow*



## **TERRANCE VOLDEN - TECHNICAL DIRECTOR AND SCENE DESIGN**

Terrance graduated from Sterling College in Kansas in 2008 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication and Theatre Arts. After graduation, he spent just under 3 years as a missionary outside of Chiclayo, Peru. During his time in South America, Terrance planted a church, was acting pastor of that church, taught English, planted feeding programs, led local youth, and worked as a translator for volunteer groups from the United States. In 2012, he obtained his education licenses in both Theatre and Vocal Music, also from Sterling. His theatre credits include 3 years as Scene Shop Supervisor at Sterling College, design and directing opportunities at Sterling High School, and freelance scene design and construction across Kansas and Oklahoma. This is Terrance's second year serving as Technical Director for the Taylor theatre department.

### **SPECIAL THANKS**

#### ***Assistance and Donations to the Set***

Dr. Courtney Gorman

Dr. Alan Winqvist

The Neels

The Wielands

Beulah Baker

David Peachy

Lynn Volden

Claire Hadley

Taylor University Facilities Services



Sigmund Freud.....**Joe Ricke**

C.S. Lewis.....**Matt DeLong**

**TIME**

September 3, 1939

**PLACE**

Freud's study  
20 Maresfield Gardens  
Hampstead, NW London

## THE CAST



**Joe Ricke** is a Professor of English at Taylor University. His previous roles include Rothko in *Red*, Creon in *Antigone*, Lenny in *Of Mice and Men*, Rosencrantz in *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*, Von Trapp in *The Sound of Music*, Friar Laurence in *Romeo and Juliet*, Doctor Chumley in *Harvey*, Mr. Smith in *Meet Me in Saint Louis*, and the Bear in *The Winter's Tale*. His directing credits include *Romeo and Juliet*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *As You Like It*, *The Winter's Tale*, *Much Ado about*

*Nothing*, *Taming of the Shrew*, *Antigone*, *Loves Labours Lost*, *The Bald Soprano*, and *Waiting for Godot*. He dedicates this performance to Tripp Gorman, who would have really liked this play. And other students and friends struggling with faith. You're not alone.



**Matt DeLong** is a Professor of Mathematics and Fellow of the Bedi Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence at Taylor University. He also co-teaches the Foundations of the Christian Liberal Arts course. He previously appeared on the Taylor stage as Mr. Fezziwig in *A Christmas Carol*. Other favorite roles include Max in *Lend Me a Tenor*, Tateh in *Ragtime*, John the Baptist/Judas in *Godspell*, Sancho in *Man of la Mancha* and Herman in *The Most Happy Fella*. He has directed *Father of*

*the Bride* and his musical direction credits include *Guys and Dolls*, *Into the Woods* and *Carousel*. He loves spending time with his beautiful wife and three wonderful kids, all of whom also love to perform on the stage. He performs tonight in memory of his friend Dale, who was the "Freud" to his "Lewis."

### Interested in learning more about CS Lewis and his ideas?

Visit the Center for the Study of CS Lewis & Friends on the lower level of the Zondervan Library. The Center holds the second largest collection of Lewis first editions, letters, and manuscripts in the US. Check out our website: [www.taylor.edu/cslewis](http://www.taylor.edu/cslewis)



PRODUCTION STAFF

Artistic Director.....Jessica Rousselow-Winquist

Technical Director and Scene Design.....\*Terrance Volden

Lighting Design.....Jonathan Wormgoor and Tyler Smith

Master Carpenter.....\*Tucker Wieland

Charge Scenic Artist.....\*Kathryn Irwin  
Callie Haven

Master Electrician.....Tyler Smith

Costume Designer.....Natalie Smiley

Properties Master.....\*Tamara Peachy  
Callie Haven  
Kacey Heinlein

Sound Technician.....Nathan Pavey

Makeup/Hair.....Leah Murphy

Marketing.....\*Lucas Sweitzer

House Manager.....Lauren Lewis  
John Leman Nathan Sturgis Lexie Owen Jessica Schulte  
Kyle Carruthers Lydia Grace Espiritu Deborah Barnett David Nicholls  
Rachel Luke April McDonald Kayla Rees David Seaman  
Zack Taylor Joe Kasper Alex Mellen Haley Kurr  
Becca Schriner Grace Bolinger Kacey Heinlein Lauren Anderson  
Emma Helfgott Elise Jessup Evan Koons

\*Denotes Alpha Psi Omega  
Membership  
National Dramatic Honor Society

W elcome to Taylor University Theatre. If you are a regular supporter of our program we thank you for your encouraging participation over the years. If this is your first visit, we trust that you will enjoy our work enough to return - again and again and again. We have a distinct calling as a Christian liberal arts theatre program, reflected in our philosophical statement. We welcome your participation, your comments on our work, and any suggestions you might have to help us accomplish our mission.

*Come Play with us. . .*

T aylor University Theatre is a co-curricular educational program supporting the liberal arts mission of the University by providing a broad range of theatre experiences that span most theatrical periods, genres, and styles.

Plays that probe the human condition and reveal human action with integrity, authenticity, and a sense of “grace,” provide us the opportunity to understand better what is true about ourselves and others.

While individual plays may not necessarily reflect the ethos of the Taylor community, we believe that this theatrical pursuit of truth resides at the heart of a Christian Liberal Arts education.



